

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace the drawings in this application with the attached drawings.

REMARKS

Claims 35-61 are in the case and presented for consideration.

Drawings and Form

Applicant has amended Fig. 1 to include reference numeral 106 which denotes presentation zone. Support for the amendment can be found, for example, on page 7, lines 8-19, of the specification. Claim 54 has been improved to avoid the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 42, 49, 50, 54, 60 and 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,959,621 to Nawaz, et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Nawaz").

Regarding claim 42, the examiner states:

Nawaz teaches an information processing device for exploring information by a user, comprising a display screen to display a plurality of flowing links within a flow zone, each of the flowing links being linked to respective information units for display in a presentation zone of the display screen (fig. 3; col. 8, lines 34-44); and an input device responsive to control by the user to directly alter the flow of the links and to select one of the flowing links (col. 8, lines 44-47; col. 9, lines 20-24).

See page 3, first paragraph, of the April 6, 2006 Office Action.

In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's above-noted rejection.

Claim 42 has been amended to better define the claimed invention. In particular, claim 42 has been amended to recite, as follows:

An information processing device for exploring information by a user, comprising:
a display screen to display a plurality of flowing links within a flow zone, each of the flowing links being linked to respective information units for display as a presentation in a presentation zone of the display screen; and
an input device responsive to control by the user to directly alter the

flow of the links and to select one of the flowing links, wherein
the flowing links move at a desired flow speed and a desired flow direction within the flow zone,
the flow zone comprises a flow control means responsive to appropriate manipulation of the input device by the user within the flow zone to selectively change the flow speed and flow direction, and
the presentation automatically collapses into a compact configuration when moved within the presentation zone.

Nawaz does not disclose or suggest the above-underlined features which have been added to claim 42. Nawaz describes a ticker display pane that can only scroll in one direction, i.e., from right to left or from left to right of the ticker display pane (see Nawaz, col. 8, lines 34-35 and 48-49). The scroll speed of the data items can only be adjusted with a separate control menu (see Nawaz, col. 8, lines 44-46). Nawaz fails to teach adjusting the scroll speed and scroll direction of the data items within the ticker display pane. Therefore, Nawaz fails to teach "a flow control means responsive to appropriate strokes by the user within the flow zone to selectively change the flow speed and flow direction of the flowing links", as recited in claim 42.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully maintains that Nawaz does not disclose or suggest the device as recited in Applicant's claim 42.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully maintains that claim 42 recites patentable subject matter, and therefore, withdrawal of the rejection with respect to claim 42 is respectfully requested.

Claims 49, 50 and 54 depend from claim 42, and therefore include the features of claim 42. Claims 60 and 61 also contain the patentable features of claim 42. Accordingly, for the same reasons given above for claim 42, claims 49, 50, 54, 60 and 61 also contain patentable subject matter, and therefore, withdrawal of the rejection with respect to claims 49, 50, 54, 60 and 61 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 35, 57, 58, and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nawaz and U.S. Patent 6,005,767 to Ku, et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Ku").

The Examiner states that Nawaz teaches the graphical user interface recited in claim 35, except Nawaz does not specifically teach a horizontally disposed touch screen.

The Examiner states as motivation, that:

it would have been obvious... to include the teaching of Ku in the invention of Nawaz in order to provide a user with a display that can be conveniently adjusted to a variety of positions.

See pages 4-5 of the April 6, 2006 Office Action.

In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's above-noted rejection.

Claim 35 has been amended to better define the claimed invention. In particular, claim 35 has been amended to recite, as follows:

A graphical user interface for use with a data processing device, comprising:

a horizontally disposed touch screen for interaction with a user;

a plurality of user responsive display elements for displaying on the screen, the elements comprising:

a flow zone comprising a list of flowing links displayed around a periphery of the screen, wherein the user strokes the touch screen to induce change in the movement of the flowing links; and

a presentation zone for presenting information selected from the flowing links as a presentation, wherein

the flow zone comprises a flow control means responsive to appropriate strokes by the user within the flow zone to selectively change the flow speed and flow direction of the flowing links, and

the presentation automatically collapses into a compact configuration when moved within the presentation zone.

The cited references do not disclose or suggest the above-underlined features which have been added to claim 35. As discussed previously, Nawaz describes a ticker

display pane that can only scroll in one direction, i.e., from right to left or from left to right of the ticker display pane (see Nawaz, col. 8, lines 34-35 and 48-49). The scroll speed of the data items can only be adjusted with a control menu (see Nawaz, col. 8, lines 44-46). Nawaz fails to teach adjusting the scroll speed and scroll direction of the data items within the ticker display pane. Therefore, Nawaz fails to teach "a flow control means responsive to appropriate strokes by the user within the flow zone to selectively change the flow speed and flow direction of the flowing links", as recited in claim 35.

The Ku reference discloses a touch screen, but fails to provide the missing teaching of Nawaz.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully maintains that Nawaz and Ku do not disclose or suggest the device as recited in Applicant's claim 35.

Accordingly, Applicant maintains that claim 35 recites patentable subject matter, and therefore, withdrawal of the rejection with respect to claim 35 is respectfully requested.

Claims 57, 58 and 59 depend from claim 42, and therefore include the features of claim 42. Since Ku fails to provide the missing teaching of Nawaz, claims 57, 58 and 59 are believed to also contain patentable subject matter for the same reasons given previously for claim 35 and 42. Withdrawal of the rejection with respect to claims 57, 58 and 59 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nawaz, Ku and U.S. Patent 6,216,141 to Straub, et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Straub").

The Examiner states that Nawaz and Ku teaches the interface of claim 35, but does not teach "the display elements further comprise at least one flow control element, a

respective flow control element being disposed adjacent to each flowing link, and a plurality of control zones disposed together for effecting control of other display elements", which the Examiner alleges are all taught by Straub.

The Examiner states as motivation, that:

it would have been obvious... to include the flow control means as taught by Straub in the modified Nawaz because it provides users different navigation control options ***to look through the information in the viewer.***

See page 5 of the April 6, 2006 Office Action.

In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's above-noted rejection.

The cited references fail to disclose or suggest a flow zone that comprises a flow control means responsive to appropriate strokes by the user *within the flow zone* to selectively change the flow speed and flow direction of the flowing links, or a "flow control element... disposed adjacent to each flowing link", as recited in claim 36.

As discussed previously, Nawaz describes a ticker display pane that can only scroll in one direction, i.e., from right to left or from left to right of the ticker display pane (see Nawaz, col. 8, lines 34-35 and 48-49). The scroll speed of the data items can only be adjusted with a separate control menu (see Nawaz, col. 8, lines 44-46). Nawaz fails to teach adjusting the scroll speed and scroll direction of the data items within the ticker display pane. Therefore, Nawaz fails to teach a flow control means responsive to appropriate strokes by the user within the flow zone to selectively change the flow speed and flow direction of the flowing links.

The Ku reference teaches a touch screen.

The Straub reference teaches up and down buttons 162 and 164 for allowing a user to manually scroll through the list of currently selected channels (see Straub, col. 9, lines 7-8), but the buttons (162,164) are located outside the flow zone or path of the channel

buttons. Straub also fails to teach adjusting the scroll speed of the channel buttons. Straub however teaches an option button located at the top of the channel bar which opens **a separate options window** that includes a menu of options the user can select (see Straub, col. 9, lines 11-13). The navigation controls in the options window is used to control the displayed content in the viewer, rather than to adjust the "flow" of the channel buttons in the channel bar (see Straub, col. 9, lines 24-32, stating that:

The options menu also provides a navigation controls option... The navigation controls allow a user to **control the viewer** 140... Thus, a user can play, fast forward, pause, or rewind through the sequentially **displayed documents and channels on the viewer** 140.).

A claim is obvious only if the cited references disclose every feature recited in the claims. Thus, the separate options window according to Straub for controlling the content displayed in the viewer cannot render the claims 36 and 37 obvious because the graphical user interface as claimed in claims 36 and 37 recites a flow control means for changing the movement of the flowing links **within the flow zone**, and not a **separate menu for navigating content in a viewer**, as taught by Straub.

In addition, the combination of the references in the manner proposed by the Examiner would also not result in the claimed invention, since none of cited references disclose or suggest changing the flow speed of the flowing links within the flow zone, or a flow control element disposed adjacent each flowing link. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully maintains that claims 36 and 37 recite patentable subject matter, and therefore, withdrawal of the rejection with respect to claims 36 and 37 is respectfully requested.

Claims 38, 39, 40 and 41 depend from claim 35, and therefore include the features

of claim 35. Accordingly, for the same reasons give previously for claim 35, claims 38, 39, 40 and 41 are believed to also contain patentable subject matter, and therefore withdrawal of the rejection with respect to claims 38, 39, 40 and 41 is respectfully requested.

Claims 43, 44 and 47 are rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nawaz, and Straub.

With regards to claim 43, the Examiner states:

Nawaz teaches an information processing device according to claim 42, wherein the flowing links move at a default flow speed and a default flow direction within the flow zone, and the input device is controlled by the user to selectively change the flow speed or flow direction (col. 8, lines 44-54), but does not teach the input device is controlled by the user to selectively change flow direction. However, Straub teaches the input device is controlled by the user to selectively change flow direction (fig. 5; controls 162, 164; col. 9, lines 7-8, and lines 24-32).

The Examiner states as motivation, that:

it would have been obvious... to include the flow control means as taught by Straub in the invention of Nawaz because it provides users different navigation control options *to look through the information in the viewer*.

See page 8 of the April 6, 2006 Office Action.

In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's above-noted rejection.

The cited references fail to disclose or suggest a flow zone that comprises a flow control means responsive to appropriate input by the user *within the flow zone* to selectively change the flow speed and flow direction of the flowing links.

As discussed previously, Nawaz describes a ticker display pane that can only scroll in one direction, i.e., from right to left or from left to right of the ticker display pane (see Nawaz, col. 8, lines 34-35 and 48-49). The scroll speed of the data items can only be adjusted with a separate control menu (see Nawaz, col. 8, lines 44-46). Nawaz fails to

teach adjusting the scroll speed and scroll direction of the data items within the ticker display pane. Therefore, Nawaz fails to teach a flow control means responsive to appropriate strokes by the user within the flow zone to selectively change the flow speed and flow direction of the flowing links.

The Ku reference teaches a touch screen.

The Straub reference teaches up and down buttons 162 and 164 for allowing a user to manually scroll through the list of currently selected channels (see Straub, col. 9, lines 7-8), but the buttons (162,164) are located outside the flow zone or path of the channel buttons. Straub also fails to teach adjusting the scroll speed of the channel buttons. Straub however teaches an option button located at the top of the channel bar which opens **a separate options window** that includes a menu of options the user can select (see Straub, col. 9, lines 11-13). The navigation controls in the options window is used to control the displayed content in the viewer, not to adjust the "flow" of the channel buttons in the channel bar (see Straub, col. 9, lines 24-32, stating that:

The options menu also provides a navigation controls option... The navigation controls allow a user to **control the viewer 140**... Thus, a user can play, fast forward, pause, or rewind through the sequentially **displayed documents and channels on the viewer 140**.).

A claim is obvious only if the cited references teach every feature recited in the claims. Thus, the separate options window according to Straub for controlling the content displayed in the viewer cannot render the claim 43 obvious because the device as claimed in claim 43 recites a flow control means for changing the movement of the flowing links **within the flow zone**, and not a **separate menu for navigating the displayed content in the viewer**, as taught by Straub.

In addition, the combination of the references in the manner proposed by the Examiner would also not result in the claimed invention since none of cited references disclose or suggest changing the flow speed of the flowing links within the flow zone.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully maintains that claim 43 recites patentable subject matter, and therefore, withdrawal of the rejection with respect to claim 43 is respectfully requested.

Claim 44 depends from claim 43, and therefore include the features of claim 43. Accordingly, for the same reasons give previously for claim 43, claim 44 is believed to also contain patentable subject matter, and therefore withdrawal of the rejection with respect to claim 44 is respectfully requested.

With regards to claim 47, Nawaz fails to teach changing the scroll direction and scroll speed of the data items directly within the ticker display pane (see Nawaz, col. 8, lines 44-46, stating that:

The data items scroll across the display at a default speed, but the user may select variable speeds through a control menu (not shown).).

However, Nawaz teaches that the desktop (rather than the ticker display pane) includes a separate option button (160) for customizing the content provided in the viewer (see Nawaz, col. 9, lines 37-38; Fig. 3, item 160). Straub teaches two up and down buttons 162 and 164 located at the bottom of the channel bar, which remain stationary relative the channel buttons (see Straub, Fig. 5).

Based on the foregoing, Nawaz and Straub fails to disclose or suggest ***alternately displaying the flowing links and the flow control areas within the flow zone.***

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully maintains that claim 47 recites patentable subject

matter, and therefore, withdrawal of the rejection with respect to claim 47 is respectfully requested.

Claims 45 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nawaz, Straub, and U.S. Patent 6,259,432 to Yamada, et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Yamada").

The Examiner states:

Nawaz... does not teach wherein the flow speed changes in response to the user selecting a location of the display screen with the input device and dragging the selected location in the flow direction, and wherein the flow direction is reversed in response to the user selecting a location and dragging the selected location against the flow direction. However, Yamada teaches wherein the flow speed changes in response to the user selecting a location of the display screen with the input device and dragging the selected location in the flow direction, wherein the flow direction is reversed in response to the user selecting a location and dragging the selected location against the flow direction (fig. 6 and 7; col. 18, lines 20-47).

The Examiner states as motivation, that:

it would have been obvious... to include the flow control means as taught by Yamada in the invention of Nawaz and Straub because it provides users different navigation control options to control the direction and speed of the scrolling information.

See page 9 of the April 6, 2006 Office Action.

In response, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's above-noted rejection.

The cited references fail to disclose or suggest, among other patentable features, wherein the flow speed changes in response to the user selecting a location of the display screen with the input device and dragging the selected location in the flow direction, as recited in claim 45, or wherein the flow direction is reversed in response to the user selecting a location and dragging the selected location against the flow direction, as recited

in claim 46. Since, as indicated by the Examiner (at page 9, third paragraph, of the Office Action), Nawaz and Straub do not disclose or suggest these features, i.e., changing flow speed or flow direction in response to the motion of the input device, Yamada cannot provide the missing teaching to render claims 45 and 46 obvious.

Yamada teaches an information apparatus that can adjust the scrolling speed for data displayed in an application window... (see Yamada, abstract). However, this feature can only be activated if scrolling is permitted by the underlying application window, such as when the "at least one of the horizontal and the vertical scroll bars for screen scrolling is displayed" (see Yamada, col. 17, lines 3-5; Fig. 7; paragraph bridging col. 17 and 18, stating that:

Some applications, however, permit scrolling in only one direction, either horizontally or vertically, and inhibit simultaneous scrolling in two directions... In this case, ... it may be assumed that scrolling is instructed in the direction having the larger value, while the smaller value is abandoned or ignored.).

Yamada clearly suggests that scrolling requests from an input device will be ignored if the application window does not permit scrolling.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the initial burden is on the Examiner to show that there is suggestion or motivation in the reference for modifying or combining the teachings of the reference. See, e.g., MPEP § 2142. It is inappropriate to use applicant's disclosure as a blueprint (or to use hindsight based on knowledge obtained from application's patent disclosure) to reconstruct the claimed invention from selected pieces of prior art absent some suggestion, teaching, or motivation in the prior art to do so. See, e.g., *Uniroyal, Inc. v. Rudkin-Wiley Corp.*, 837 F.2d 1044, 1051-52, 5 USPQ2d 1434, 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In re Warner*, 379 F.2d 1011, 1017, 154 USPQ 173, 177 (CCPA 1967), cert. denied, 389 U.S. 1057(1968); *In re Rouffet*, 149 F.3d 1350, 1357 (Fed. Cir.

1998) ("In other words, the examiner must show reasons that the skilled artisan, confronted with the same problems as the inventor and with no knowledge of the claimed invention, would select the elements from the cited prior art references for combination in the manner claimed.").

See also the recent Federal Circuit case of *In re Kahn*, Fed. Cir. No. 04-1616, March 22, 2006. See full text at <http://pub.bna.com/ptcj/041616Mar22.pdf>. This case reiterates the requirement that for any obviousness rejection based on a combination of references, the rejection must **articulate the motivation** for combining the references.

Nawaz and Straub fails to teach that the data items in ticker display pane or the channel buttons in the channel bar can be scrolled with an input device without using the navigation buttons or menu on the display screen. Since the data items or the channel buttons are not scrollable without the navigation buttons or menu on the display screen, the combination of Yamada with Nawaz and Straub cannot result in the claimed invention. According to Yamada, any scroll requests, namely, "select and drag" or "click and drag" movements within the channel bar or ticker display pane, by the input device will simply be ignored.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully maintains that claims 45 and 46 recite patentable subject matter, and therefore, withdrawal of the rejection with respect to claims 45 and 46 is respectfully requested.

Claims 48, 51, 52, 53, 55 and 56 depend from claim 42, and therefore include the features of claim 42. Accordingly, for the same reasons give previously for claim 42, claims 48, 51, 52, 53, 55 and 56 are believed to also contain patentable subject matter, and therefore withdrawal of the rejection with respect to claims 48, 51, 52, 53, 55 and 56

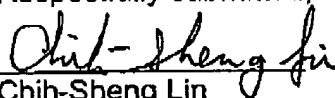
is respectfully requested.

Finally none of the cited references disclose or suggest, among other patentable features, a presentation of the flowing links that automatically collapses into a compact configuration when moved within the presentation zone.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 35-61 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

If any issues remain, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned to advance the application to allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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